

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 COME-00 SPC-03 IO-14

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L/SCI: EMAURER

EUR/RPE: (INFO)

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R 162131Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: TPHY, NG, SWEL

SUBJ: WEATHER MODIFICATION

REF: NIAMEY 23, STATE 3608

1. WE REGRET US CANNOT ACCEDE TO GON REQUEST FOR AIRCRAFT FOR CLOUD SEEDING ACTIVITIES. ALTHOUGH PROVISION OF SUCH AIRCRAFT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS INDIRECT RATHER THAN DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN WEATHER MODIFICATION PROJECT, ISSUE OF ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE FACED ON ITS MERITS. PRECEDENT HERE WILL NOT BE OVERLOOKED BY OTHER COUNTRIES WITH DROUGHT PROBLEMS.

2. EVEN INDIRECT ASSISTANCE WOULD NOT REMOVE OUR LIABILITY CONCERNS. THE DOWNWIND EFFECTS OF CLOUD SEEDING OPERATIONS, AS NOTED BY THE RECENT REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, (NAS), ARE STILL UNCERTAIN. THERE IS GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT ADJACENT DOWNWIND COUNTRIES MIGHT WELL CONTEND SEEDING OPERATIONS DEPRIVED THEM OF QUOTE NATURAL UNQUOTE RAINFALL. ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT NOT PROVIDE BASIS FOR LAW SUIT, FOREIGN CONCERNS COULD LEAD PROTESTS TO THE US AS WELL AS TO GON. IN THIS CONNECTION CANADA HAS RECENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT A CLOUD SEEDING PROPOSAL THAT WASHINGTON STATE WAS CONSIDERING AS DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURE, AND EMBASSY NIAMEY WILL RECALL CONCERNS EXPRESSED EMBASSY NDJAMENA (FORT LAMY 1442) LAST SEPTEMBER.

3. WE ALSO BELIEVE THERE IS INADEQUATE DATA ABOUT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS IN SAHEL TO REACH JUDGEMENT ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY OF CLOUD SEEDING FOR DROUGHT RELIEF. COLLECTION, COLLATION AND ANALYSIS OF NECESSARY DATA ARE LONG-RANGE PROJECT.

4. COST EFFECTIVENESS IS FURTHER CONSIDERATION. COULD MONEY INVESTED IN CLOUD SEEDING BE PUT TO BETTER USE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVELOPING OR PRESERVING WATER RESOURCES? WE DO NOT KNOW ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION, BUT RECENT STUDY CONDUCTED BY SIERRA CORPORATION, A PRIVATE METEOROLOGICAL COMPANY, FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA COULD NOT BE CONCLUSIVE ABOUT ECONOMICS OF WEATHER MODIFICATION AS MEANS OF ENHANCING WATER RESOURCES. (FYI SEE ALSO REPORT OF NOAA CONSULTANT BOLLAY IN NIGER SITUATION END FYI.)

5. HOWEVER, US IS PREPARED TO LOOK AT WEATHER MODIFICATION ON REGION-WIDE BASIS. LATER THIS MONTH NAS TASK FORCE WILL BEGIN ANALYSIS OF METEOROLOGICAL AND CLIMATOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF LONG-TERM SAHEL REHABILITATION, INCLUDING POTENTIAL OF WEATHER MODIFICATION OVER NEAR AND LONG-TERM. FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE ASKED MIT SURVEY GROUP, WHICH IS EXAMINING BROAD RANGE OF ECONOMIC OPTIONS IN SAHEL, TO CONSIDER WEATHER MODIFICATION AS FACTOR IN WATER MANAGEMENT STUDY. BUT PREREQUISITE FOR USG PARTICIPATION IN ANY WEATHER MODIFICATION PROJECT FOR SAHEL, IF STUDIES SHOULD INDICATE THERE ARE POTENTIAL BENEFITS WORTH EXPLORING, IS THAT IT BE CONDUCTED NOT ON INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL, BUT ON WIDE REGIONAL BASIS THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS WMO.

6. INFO POSTS MAY DRAW UPON FOREGOING IF SUBJECT OF WEATHER MODIFICATION IS RAISED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS. RUSH

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